

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11-14, 16-19 and 20 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-8, 11-14, 16-19 and 20 are rejected. Reconsideration of the Application and Claims is respectfully requested.

112(2) Rejection

Claims 7 and 13 are rejected as being indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Amendments made to Claims 7 and 13 (entered after the final rejection as indicated in the advisory action of May 9, 2008) obviate the rejection of these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the aforementioned 35 USC 112, second paragraph, rejection be withdrawn.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-8, 11-14, 16, 18, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Zejda (US Patent No. 5,228,968) in view of Maeda et al. (US Patent No. 5,620,523) and Ando et al. (US Patent No. 6,458,253). Applicant respectfully submits that the embodiments that are set forth in Claims 1-8, 11-14, 16, 18, 19 and 20 are not rendered obvious by Zejda in view of Maeda et al. and Ando et al.

Zejda in view of Maeda et al. and Ando et al. is deficient as it does not teach or suggest each of the features recited in amended independent Claim 1. In particular, Zejda in view of Maeda et al. and Ando et al. does not teach or suggest a gas supply means that includes “an electrically insulating sleeve located at an opening in a wall of said chamber between said inlet

portion and said outlet portion” as recited in amended independent Claim 1 (independent Claim 11 recites similar features).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over Zejda in view of Maeda et al. and Ando et al. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-8 dependent on Claim 1, and Claims 12-14, 16, 18, 19 and 20 dependent on Claim 11 are likewise allowable as being dependent on allowable base claims as well as for reciting additional patentable features.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Zejda in view of Maeda et al. and Ando et al. and further in view of Suzuki et al. (US Patent No. 6,627,253). Suzuki et al. does not remedy the deficiencies of Zejda in view of Maeda et al. and Ando et al. with respect to independent Claim 11 that are discussed above. Claim 17 depends from Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 17 is allowable as being dependent on allowable Claim 11 as well as for reciting additional patentable features.

Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance and allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant’s undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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